

The Desert SUSTAINER

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Serving the soldiers of LSA Anaconda and Sustainer Army Airfield

23 Russian Miners Escape Mine

SHAKHTY, Russia (CNN) — Twenty-three weary men have emerged after nearly two days in a flooded mine in southern Russia, but officials say they have no contact with 13 of the 23 men still under the surface.

Ten miners, however, were following the first 23 on Saturday afternoon, crawling through a narrow



Workers prepare a bulldozer for rescue work in a mine shaft.

200-meter tunnel, half-filled with water, in groups of three or four per hour. At the end of the tunnel was a 30-minute elevator ride to the mineshaft's opening.

Russian officials at the mine, in Russia's Rostov region, 1000 km (600 miles) south of Moscow, initially announced that all 46 miners were alive after they were trapped when water pressure burst through from an adjacent, abandoned shaft.

Later though, officials said they had only located 33 and were uncertain about the other 13.



A miner emerges after being trapped in a mine for two-days in Russia's Rostov region.

Security Needs to Drive Troop Rotations

by Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, USA (Oct. 21, 2003)
– The bulk of U.S. troops serving in Iraq will rotate home in the first half of 2004, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said here today.

The numbers and types of troops that replace them will be driven by the “security situation on the ground in Iraq” rather than “timelines for force reductions,” the secretary said in a Pentagon press briefing.

DoD's ultimate goal is to “increasingly shift the responsibility for Iraqi security to the Iraqis themselves,” Rumsfeld explained.

As more Iraqi security forces become trained and able to carry out duties in their country, fewer U.S. and other foreign troops will be needed. In the past five months, Rumsfeld said, roughly 85,000 Iraqis have been trained to take up arms. That includes 55,000 police, 6,400 border guards, 18,700 members of the Facilities Protection Force, one 700-man battalion of the new Iraqi army, and 4,700 members of a civil-defense corps.

In the meantime, U.S. force require-

ments will depend on the needs of the commanders in theater, said Marine Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Pace explained ground commanders are looking at replacing both combat and combat-support units and at finding the right mix of specialties. “The next rotation will have fewer heavy units like tanks, and more units that have humvees and lighter vehicles for mobile infantry,” he said. “That also lightens up the amount of logistic support needed – the mechanics needed and the like – to keep the heavy equipment moving.”



Mel Gibson, right, directs Jim Caviezel, playing Jesus in "The Passion."

Lightning Strikes Jesus

ROME, Italy — Actor Jim Caviezel, who plays Jesus in Mel Gibson's controversial film "The Passion of Christ" was struck by lightning during shooting. Caviezel was uninjured, but a producer described how he saw smoke coming from the actor's ear. An assistant director on the film, Jan Michelini, was also hit — for the second time in a few months. The first time, a lightning bolt struck his umbrella during filming on top of a hill near Matera in Italy, causing light burns to the tips of his fingers, VLife, a supplement to Variety publications said in its October issue. A few months later the second strike happened, a few hours from Rome. The film, which is spoken in Latin and Aramaic, has come in for criticism from some religious leaders. It portrays the last hours of Jesus, but some Jewish and Roman Catholic groups are concerned the film will fuel anti-Semitism.

Marlins Claim 2nd Series

BRONX, New York (Ticker) — The Florida Marlins did what many deemed impossible and defeated the mighty Yankees to earn the title World Series champions.

Given the ball by his trusting manager, Josh Beckett rewarded Jack McKeon's faith with a brilliant five-hitter as the Marlins hoisted the Commissioner's Trophy for the second time in 11 years, stopping the New York Yankees , 2-0, in Game Six of the World Series.

The 23-year-old Beckett was

overpowering and completed a breakout postseason that vaulted him to the elite level of young righthanders. He allowed two walks, struck out nine and got all the key outs down the stretch, when his supposed lack of rest would come back to haunt him and the Marlins.

Beckett tossed the first complete-game shutout in the World Series since Arizona's Randy Johnson blanked the Yankees in Game Two of the 2001 Fall Classic. Excluding a four-run first inning in Game One against Chicago, Beckett allowed six runs in 41 2/3 postseason innings.

Beckett got Florida back in the

NCLS with a two-hitter in Game Five, then worked four innings in relief three days later. He took a tough loss in Game Three of this series but was dominant just four days later.

As they have done throughout this month, the Marlins scratched out just enough offense. In the fifth, Luis Castillo had an RBI and an inning later, Juan Encarnacion delivered a sacrifice fly.

The Yankees had won four World Series titles between 1996-2000 but have lost in their last two appearances, falling in seven games to Arizona in 2001.

ASK THE GENERAL

Have a question? Can't get an answer? Ask the general. Every week the 3rd Corps Support Command Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Vincent E. Boles will answer your questions in the Sustainer newsletter. For more information contact the 3rd COSCOM Public Affairs Office.

TOP 25 Scores

3	Virginia Tech	7
	West Virginia	28
20	Wisconsin	7
	Northwestern	16
12	Northern Illinois	18
23	Bowling Green	34
	Ole Miss	19
21	Arkansas	7
1	Oklahoma	34
	Colorado	20
8	Ohio State	36
	Indiana	6
13	Michigan	31
10	Purdue	3

Holiday Greetings

3d COSCOM soldiers will be filming "Holiday Greetings" with AFN November 1 and 2. The tapings will take place from 9 a.m. to noon, in front of the ALOC, Building 4120. If any units would like to set up a time to record their greetings please contact the PAO at 558-2053 or e-mail kimberly.kaminsky@us.army.mil.

Contact us...

The Desert Sustainer is a newsletter compiled, printed and published by the 3rd Corps Support Command Public Affairs Office. Please bring up any comments, suggestions or story ideas to us at 558-2053, or email carolanne.diggs@us.army.mil, or stop by bldg. 4137.